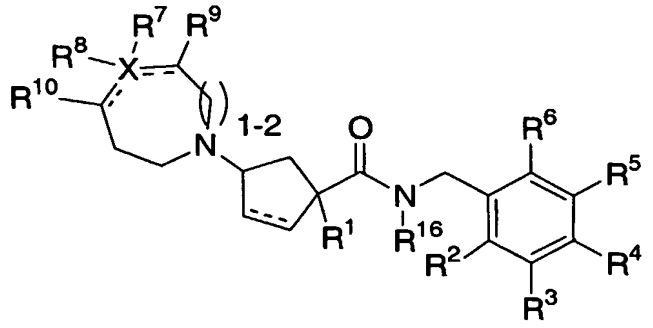
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A compound of the formula I:



I

wherein:

X is O, N, S, SO_2 or C;

R^1 is selected from:

hydrogen, -C_{1-6}alkyl, -C_{0-6}alkyl-O-C_{1-6}alkyl, -C_{0-6}alkyl-S-C_{1-6}alkyl, -(C_{0-6}alkyl)-(C_{3-7}cycloalkyl)-(C_{0-6}alkyl), hydroxy, heterocycle, -CN, -$NR^{12}R^{12}$, -N $R^{12}COR^{13}$, -N $R^{12}SO_2R^{14}$, -N $R^{12}SO_2NR^{12}$ R^{12}-, -COR^{11}, -CON R^{12} R^{12}, and phenyl, where:

said alkyls and cycloalkyls are unsubstituted or substituted with 1-7 substituents independently selected from: halo, hydroxy, -O-C_{1-3}alkyl, trifluoromethyl, C_{1-3}alkyl, -O-C_{1-3}alkyl, -COR^{11}, -SO_2R^{14},-$NHCOCH_3$, -$NHSO_2CH_3$, -heterocycle, =O, and -CN,

said phenyl and heterocycle are unsubstituted or substituted with 1-3 substituents independently selected from: halo, hydroxy, C_{1-3}alkyl, C_{1-3}alkoxy and trifluoromethyl;

R^{11} is selected from: hydroxy, hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, -O- C_{1-6}alkyl, benzyl, phenyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, where the alkyl, phenyl, benzyl, and cycloalkyl groups are unsubstituted or substituted with 1-3 substituents independently selected from: halo, hydroxy, C_{1-3}alkyl, C_{1-3}alkoxy, -CO_2H, -CO_2-C_{1-6} alkyl, and trifluoromethyl,

R^{12} is independently selected from: hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, benzyl, phenyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, where the alkyl, phenyl, benzyl, and cycloalkyl groups are unsubstituted or substituted with 1-3 substituents independently selected from: halo, hydroxy, C_{1-3}alkyl, C_{1-3}alkoxy, $-CO_2H$, $-CO_2-C_{1-6}$ alkyl, and trifluoromethyl,

R^{13} is selected from: hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, $-O-C_{1-6}$alkyl, benzyl, phenyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, where the alkyl, phenyl, benzyl, and cycloalkyl groups are unsubstituted or substituted with 1-3 substituents independently selected from: halo, hydroxy, C_{1-3}alkyl, C_{1-3}alkoxy, $-CO_2H$, $-CO_2-C_{1-6}$ alkyl, and trifluoromethyl, and

R^{14} is selected from: hydroxy, C_{1-6} alkyl, $-O-C_{1-6}$alkyl, benzyl, phenyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl where the alkyl, phenyl, benzyl, and cycloalkyl groups can be unsubstituted or substituted with 1-3 independently selected from: halo, hydroxy, C_{1-3}alkyl, C_{1-3}alkoxy, $-CO_2H$, $-CO_2-C_{1-6}$ alkyl, and trifluoromethyl;

R^2 is selected from:

(a) hydrogen,
(b) C_{1-3}alkyl, unsubstituted or substituted with 1-3 fluoro,
(c) $-O-C_{1-3}$alkyl, unsubstituted or substituted with 1-3 fluoro,
(d) hydroxy,
(e) chloro,
(f) fluoro,
(g) bromo, and
(h) phenyl;

R^3 is selected from:

(a) hydrogen,
(b) hydroxy,
(c) halo,
(d) C_{1-3}alkyl unsubstituted or substituted with 1-6 substituents independently selected from: fluoro, hydroxy, and $-COR^{11}$,
(e) $-NR^{12}R^{12}$,
(f) $-COR^{11}$,
(g) $-CONR^{12}R^{12}$,
(h) $-NR^{12}COR^{13}$,
(i) $-OCONR^{12}R^{12}$,
(j) $-NR^{12}CONR^{12}R^{12}$,
(k) -heterocycle,
(l) -CN,

(m) $-NR^{12}-SO_2-NR^{12}R^{12}$,
(n) $-NR^{12}-SO_2-R^{14}$,
(o) $-SO_2-NR^{12}R^{12}$ and
(p) nitro;

R^4 is selected from:

(a) hydrogen,
(b) C_{1-3}alkyl, unsubstituted or substituted with 1-3 fluoro,
(c) $-O-C_{1-3}$alkyl, unsubstituted or substituted with 1-3 fluoro,
(d) hydroxy,
(e) chloro,
(f) fluoro,
(g) bromo, and
(h) phenyl;

R^5 is selected from:

(a) C_{1-6}alkyl, unsubstituted or substituted with 1-6 fluoro, hydroxyl, or both,
(b) $-O-C_{1-6}$alkyl, unsubstituted or substituted with 1-6 fluoro,
(c) $-CO-C_{1-6}$alkyl,unsubstituted or substituted with 1-6 fluoro,
(d) $-S-C_{1-6}$alkyl, unsubstituted or substituted with 1-6 fluoro,
(e) -pyridyl, unsubstituted or substituted with one or more substituents selected from: halo, trifluoromethyl, C_{1-4}alkyl, and COR^{11},
(f) fluoro,
(g) chloro,
(h) bromo,
(i) $-C_{4-6}$cycloalkyl, unsubstituted or substituted with 1-6 fluoro,
(j) $-O-C_{4-6}$cycloalkyl, unsubstituted or substituted with 1-6 fluoro,
(k) phenyl, unsubstituted or substituted with one or more substituents selected from: halo, trifluoromethyl, C_{1-4}alkyl, and COR^{11},
(l) -O-phenyl, unsubstituted or substituted with one or more substituents selected from: halo, trifluoromethyl, C_{1-4}alkyl, and COR^{11},
(m) -heterocycle,
(n) -CN, and
(o) $-COR^{11}$;

R^6 is selected from:

(a) hydrogen,
(b) C_{1-3}alkyl, unsubstituted or substituted with 1-3 fluoro,
(c) $-O-C_{1-3}$alkyl, unsubstituted or substituted with 1-3 fluoro,

(d) hydroxy,
(e) chloro,
(f) fluoro,
(g) bromo, and
(h) phenyl;

R^7 is selected from:

(a) hydrogen,
(b) (C_{0-6}alkyl)-phenyl,
(c) (C_{0-6}alkyl)-heterocycle,
(d) (C_{0-6}alkyl)-C_{3-7}cycloalkyl ,
(e) (C_{0-6}alkyl)-COR^{11},
(f) (C_{0-6}alkyl)-(alkene)-COR^{11},
(g) (C_{0-6}alkyl)-SO_3H,
(h) (C_{0-6}alkyl)-W-C_{0-4}alkyl, where W is selected from: a single bond, -O-, -S-, -SO-, $-SO_2-$, -CO-, $-CO_2-$, $-CONR^{12}-$ and $-NR^{12}-$,
(i) (C_{0-6}alkyl)-CON R^{12}-phenyl,
(j) (C_{0-6}alkyl)-CON R^{15}-V-CO R^{11}, where V is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl or phenyl, and
(k) nothing, when X is O, S, or SO_2,

where:

R^{15} is hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl, or where R^{15} is joined via a 1-5 carbon tether to one of the carbons of V to form a ring,

C_{0-6}alkyl is unsubstituted or substituted with 1-5 substituents, where the substituents are independently selected from:

(a) halo,
(b) hydroxy,
(c) -C_{0-6}alkyl
(d) -O-C_{1-3}alkyl,
(e) trifluoromethyl, and
(f) -C_{0-2}alkyl-phenyl,

phenyl, heterocycle, cycloalkyl, and C_{0-4}alkyl is unsubstituted or substituted with 1-5 substituents where the substituents are independently selected from:

(a) halo,
(b) trifluoromethyl,
(c) hydroxy,

(d) C_{1-3}alkyl,
(e) -O-C_{1-3} alkyl,
(f) - C_{0-3}-COR^{11},
(g) -CN,
(h) -$NR^{12}R^{12}$,
(i) -$CONR^{12}R^{12}$, and
(j) - C_{0-3}-heterocycle,

where the phenyl and heterocycle may be fused to another heterocycle, which itself may be unsubstituted or substituted with 1-2 substituents independently selected from hydroxy, halo, -CO R^{11}, and $-C_{1-3}$alkyl, and where

alkene is unsubstituted or substituted with 1-3 substituents which are independently selected from:

(a) halo,
(b) trifluoromethyl,
(c) C_{1-3}alkyl,
(d) phenyl, and
(e) heterocycle;

R^8 is selected from:

(a) hydrogen,
(b) nothing when X is either O, S, SO_2 or N or when a double bond joins the carbons to which R^7 and R^{10} are attached,
(c) hydroxy,
(d) C_{1-6}alkyl,
(e) C_{1-6}alkyl-hydroxy,
(f) -O-C_{1-3}alkyl,
(g) -COR^{11},
(h) -$CONR^{12}R^{12}$, and
(i) -CN;

or where R^7 and R^8 may be joined together to form a ring which is selected from:

(a) 1H-indene,
(b) 2,3-dihydro-1H-indene,
(c) 2,3-dihydro-benzofuran,
(d) 1,3-dihydro-isobenzofuran,
(e) 2,3-dihydro-benzothiofuran,
(f) 1,3-dihydro-isobenzothiofuran,
(g) 6*H*-cyclopenta[*d*]isoxazol-3-ol

(h) cyclopentane, and
(i) cyclohexane,

where the ring formed may be unsubstituted or substituted with 1-5 substituents independently selected from:

(a) halo,
(b) trifluoromethyl,
(c) hydroxy,
(d) C_{1-3}alkyl,
(e) -O-C_{1-3}alkyl,
(f) -C_{0-3}-COR^{11},
(g) -CN,
(h) -$NR^{12}R^{12}$,
(i) -$CONR^{12}R^{12}$, and
(j) - C_{0-3}-heterocycle;

or where R^7 and R^9 or R^8 and R^{10} may be joined together to form a ring which is phenyl or heterocycle, wherein the ring is unsubstituted or substituted with 1-7 substituents independently selected from:

(a) halo,
(b) trifluoromethyl,
(c) hydroxy,
(d) C_{1-3}alkyl,
(e) -O-C_{1-3}alkyl,
(f) -COR^{11},
(g) -CN,
(h) -$NR^{12}R^{12}$, and
(i) -$CONR^{12}R^{12}$;

R^9 and R^{10} are independently selected from:

(a) hydrogen,
(b) hydroxy,
(c) C_{1-6}alkyl,
(d) C_{1-6}alkyl-COR^{11},
(e) C_{1-6}alkyl-hydroxy,
(f) -O-C_{1-3}alkyl,
(g) =O, when R^9 or R^{10} is connected to the ring via a double bond
(h) halo;

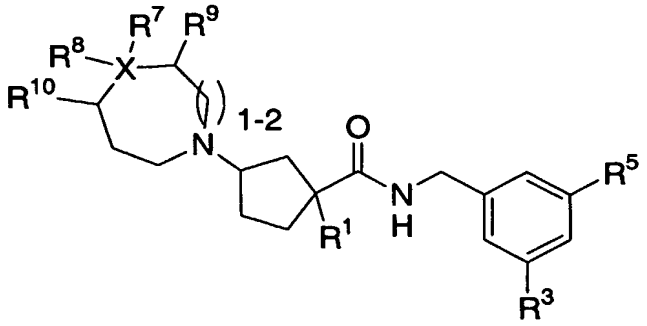
R^{16} selected from:

(a) hydrogen,
(b) phenyl,
(c) C_{1-6}alkyl which may be substituted or unsubstituted with 1-6 of the following substituents: $-COR^{11}$, hydroxy, fluoro, chloro, $-O-C_{1-3}$ alkyl;

the dashed line represents a single or a double bond;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof and individual diastereomers thereof.

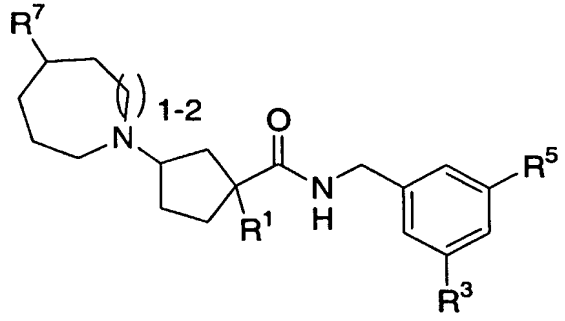
2. A compound of Claim 1 of formula Ia:



Ia

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof and individual diastereomers thereof.

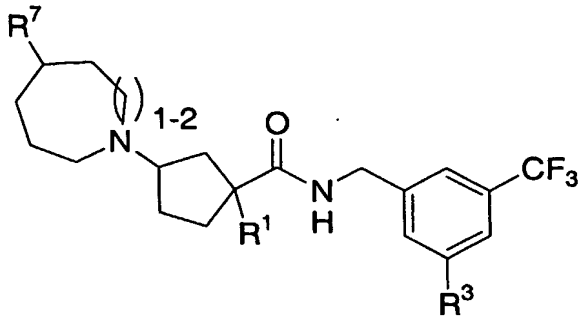
3. A compound of Claim 1 of formula Ib:



Ib

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof and individual diastereomers thereof.

4. A compound of Claim 1 of formula Ic:



Ic

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof and individual diastereomers thereof.

5. The compound of claim 1, wherein X is N, O, or C.

6. The compound of claim 1, wherein R^1 is selected from -C_{1-6}alkyl, -C_{0-6}alkyl-O-C_{1-6}alkyl, heterocycle, and -(C_{0-6}alkyl)-(C_{3-7}cycloalkyl)-(C_{0-6}alkyl),

where the alkyl, heterocycle, and the cycloalkyl are unsubstituted or substituted with 1-7 substituents independently selected from:

(a) halo,
(b) hydroxy,
(c) -O-C_{1-3}alkyl,
(d) trifluoromethyl,
(f) C_{1-3}alkyl,
(g) -O-C_{1-3}alkyl,
(h) -COR^{11},
(i) -CN,
(j) -$NR^{12}R^{12}$,
(k) -$CONR^{12}R^{12}$, and
(j) -$NCOR^{13}$.

7. The compound of claim 1, wherein R^1 is:

-C_{1-6}alkyl, unsubstituted or substituted with 1-6 substituents independently selected from:

(a) halo,
(b) hydroxy,
(c) -O-C_{1-3}alkyl,
(d) trifluoromethyl, and

(e) -COR^{11};

-C_{0-6}alkyl-O-C_{1-6}alkyl-, which is unsubstituted or substituted with 1-6 substituents independently selected from:

(a) halo,
(b) trifluoromethyl, and
(c) -COR^{11};

-(C_{3-5}cycloalkyl)-(C_{0-6}alkyl), which is unsubstituted or substituted with 1-7 substituents independently selected from:

(a) halo,
(b) hydroxy,
(c) -O-C_{1-3}alkyl,
(d) trifluoromethyl, and
(e) -COR^{11}; and

heterocycle, unsubstituted or substituted with –$NCOR^{13}$ or –$NR^{12}R^{12}$.

8. The compound of claim 1, wherein R^1 is selected from:

(a) C_{1-6}alkyl,
(b) C_{1-6}alkyl substituted with hydroxy,
(c) C_{1-6}alkyl substituted with 1-6 fluoro, and
(d) thiazole, unsubstituted or substituted with –$NHCOR^{13}$.

9. The compound of claim 1, wherein R^1 is selected from:

(a) -$CH(CH_3)_2$,
(b) -$C(OH)(CH_3)_2$,
(c) -$CH(OH)CH_3$,
(d) -CH_2CF_3, and
(e) -thiazole, bonded to the core at the 4 position of the thiazole ring, unsubstituted or substituted with –$NHCOCH_3$ at the 2 position of the thiazole ring.

10. The compound of claim 1, wherein R^2 is hydrogen.

11. The compound of claim 1, wherein R^3 is selected from:

(a) hydrogen,
(b) halo,
(c) hydroxy,
(d) C_{1-3}alkyl, where the alkyl is unsubstituted or substituted with 1-6 substituents independently selected from: fluoro, and hydroxy,

(e) -COR^{11},
(f) -$CONR^{12}R^{12}$,
(g) -heterocycle,
(h) -NR^{12}-SO_2-$NR^{12}R^{12}$,
(i) -NR^{12}-SO_2-R^{14},
(j) -SO_2-$NR^{12}R^{12}$,
(k) -nitro, and
(l) -$NR^{12}R^{12}$.

12. The compound of claim 1, wherein R^3 is selected from:

(a) hydrogen,
(b) fluoro, and
(c) trifluoromethyl.

13. The compound of claim 1, R^3 is selected from fluoro andtrifluoromethyl.

14. The compound of claim 1, wherein R^4 is hydrogen.

15. The compound of claim 1, wherein R^5 is selected from:

(a) C_{1-6}alkyl substituted with 1-6 fluoro,
(b) -O-C_{1-6}alkyl substituted with 1-6 fluoro,
(c) chloro,
(d) bromo, and
(e) phenyl.

16. The compound of claim 1, wherein R^5 is selected from:

(a) trifluoromethyl,
(b) trifluoromethoxy,
(c) chloro,
(d) bromo, and
(e) phenyl.

17. The compound of claim 1, wherein R^5 is trifluoromethyl.

18. The compound of claim 1, wherein R^6 is hydrogen.

19. The compound of claim 1, wherein R^7 is selected from phenyl, heterocycle, C_{3-7}cycloalkyl, C_{1-6}alkyl, –COR^{11}, and -CONH-V-COR^{11},

where V is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl or phenyl, and

where the phenyl, heterocycle, C_{3-7}cycloalkyl, and C_{1-6}alkyl is unsubstituted or substituted with 1-5 substituents independently selected from:

(a) halo,
(b) trifluoromethyl,
(c) hydroxy,
(d) C_{1-3}alkyl,
(e) -O-C_{1-3}alkyl,
(f) -COR^{11},
(g) -CN,
(h) -heterocycle, and
(i) -$CONR^{12}R^{12}$.

20. The compound of claim 1, wherein R^7 is selected from phenyl, heterocycle, C_{1-4}alkyl, –COR^{11}, and -CONH-V-COR^{11},

where V is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl or phenyl, and

where the phenyl, heterocycle, and C_{1-4}alkyl is unsubstituted or substituted with 1-3 substituents independently selected from:

(a) halo,
(b) hydroxy,
(c) C_{1-3}alkyl,
(d) -O-C_{1-3}alkyl,
(e) -COR^{11},and
(f) -heterocycle.

21. The compound of claim 1, wherein R^7 is selected from:

(a) hydrogen,
(b) -COR^{11},
(c) -$CONHCH_3$,
(d) phenyl,
(e) heterocycle,

22. The compound of claim 1, wherein when X is C, R^8 is selected from:

(a) hydrogen,
(b) hydroxy,
(c) -CN, and
(d) -F.

23. The compound of claim 1, wherein R^8 is hydrogen.

24. The compound of claim 1, wherein R^7 and R^8 may be joined together to form a ring which is selected from 1H-indene and 2,3-dihydro-1H-indene,

where the ring formed may be unsubstituted or substituted with 1-3 substituents independently selected from:

(a) halo,
(b) hydroxy,
(c) C_{1-3}alkyl,
(d) -O-C_{1-3}alkyl,
(e) -COR^{11}, and
(f) -heterocycle.

25. The compound of claim 1, wherein R^9 and R^{10} are independently selected from:

(a) hydrogen,
(b) hydroxy,
(c) $-CH_3$,
(d) -O-CH_3, and
(e) =O, where R^9 and/or R^{10} are joined to the ring via a double bond.

26. The compound of claim 1, wherein R^9 and R^{10} are hydrogen.

27. The compound of claim 1, wherein R^{16} is hydrogen.

28. A pharmaceutical composition which comprises an inert carrier and a compound of Claim 1.

29. A method for modulation of chemokine receptor activity in a mammal which comprises the administration of an effective amount of a compound of Claim 1.

30. A method for treating, ameliorating, controlling or reducing the risk of an inflammatory and immunoregulatory disorder or disease which comprises the administration to a patient of an effective amount of a compound of Claim 1.

31. A method for treating, ameliorating, controlling or reducing the risk of rheumatoid arthritis which comprises the administration to a patient of an effective amount of a compound of Claim 1.